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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/621,975	07/21/2000	Noah P. Montena	8958-0026	5489

5409 7590 11/30/2001

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14  
EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**Application No.  
**09/621,975**Applicant(s)  
**Montena**Examiner  
**Renee S. Luebke**Art Unit  
**2833**

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on August 29 and September 28, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 6, 8, 10-12, and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Aug 29, 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

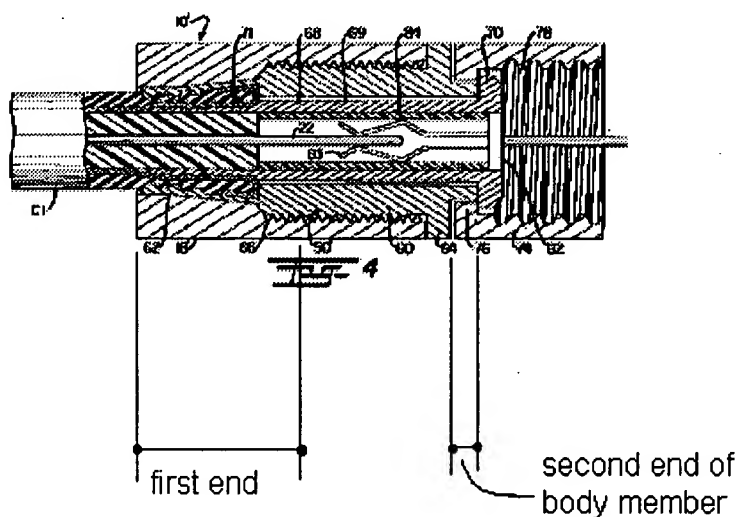
**Attachment(s)**

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_                      20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Claims 6, 10, 11 and 13 are objected to because claim 6 should be dependent on claim 2 as originally filed, and on line 1 of each of claims 10, 11 and 13, it appears that "the end" should be -an end-. Appropriate corrections are required.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Independent claims 2, 10, 11, 13 and 14 are no longer rejected as being anticipated by Holliday '220 based in the interpretation discussed during the telephone conversation on September 6, 2001 and applicant's arguments of September 20, 2001. In that regard, the connector of Holliday was for coupling the end of a coaxial cable C1 having a center conductor 22, a dielectric, a grounding sheath and an outer protective jacket. The connector comprised a tubular post 69 with a first end 71 inserted into the

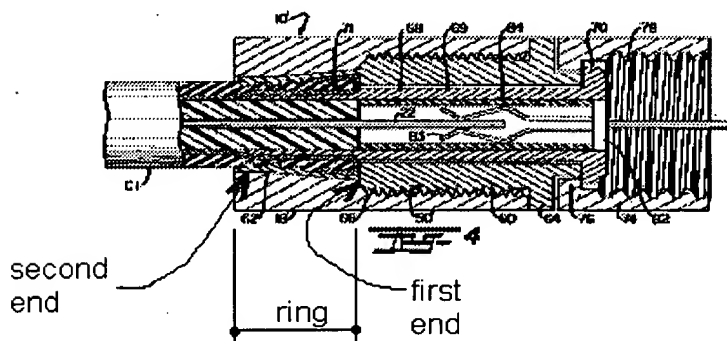


end of the cable, and an opposed second end 70; and a nut 74 rotatably engaging the second end of the post and having an opposed second end with internal threads 78. The connector further comprised a cylindrical body member 60 having a sleeve with a first and second end (as marked at left). The first end was seen to be coextensive with the sleeve and also the open rear end portion, as defined in the claims. The outer wall of the open rear end portion comprised the external wall of the

body member for the entire length of the first end. Similarly, the inner wall of the open rear end portion comprised the inner wall extending the entire length of the first end. The connector further comprised a compression ring 18' having first and second ends. The first end of the compression ring was in the same range as the first end of the body member. The second end of the compression ring was the remainder of the ring (to the right of the first end). As the internal bore of the first end of the compression ring and the outer wall of the open rear end portion (the first end) essentially abut each other as

shown on the figure, they were seen to be commensurate as claimed. However, interpreted in this manner, the compression ring lacks an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore. Since the taper of Holliday is part of the first internal bore, it does not lead therefrom.

4. However, interpreting the reference in a different manner, Claims 2, 8, 10, 12 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Holliday '220. The connector of Holliday is for coupling the end of a coaxial cable C1 having a center conductor 22, a dielectric, a grounding sheath and an outer protective jacket. The connector comprises a tubular post 69 with a first end 71 inserted into the end of the cable, and an opposed second end 70; and a nut 74 rotatably engaging the second end of the post and an opposed second end with internal threads 78. The connector further comprises a cylindrical body member 60 with a sleeve 62 and an open rear end portion



at the left end. The second end of the body member (the right end) engages the second end 70 of the post at its second end. The compression ring (indicated at left) has first and second ends as shown.

Between the ends, the ring comprises an inwardly tapered annular wall that causes deformation of the sleeve. It is noted that the threaded portion to the right of the compression ring is seen to be an attachment part of the splicing device and not a part of the compression ring.

In regard to claim 8, the body member of Holliday comprises an enlarged shoulder just to the left of the beginning of the tread 66.

In regard to claim 10, the thinner section to the right of rib 38 (see Fig. 1 for reference numeral 38) is seen to be a relief that facilitates bending of the sleeve.

In regard to claim 12, the sleeve of Holliday comprises a corrugated portion 38, 40. As this structure assists in compressing the cable, it is also seen to facilitate movement of the sleeve.

5. Claims 4 and 6 (assumed to be dependent upon claim 2) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday '220 in view of Szegda '257. Holliday does not indicate the position of the compression ring prior to installation of the cable. However, Szegda teaches that a ring 26 be attached to the body 22 prior to insertion of the cable. Such an arrangement prevents components from getting dropped or lost prior to and during assembly. For the same reason, it would have been obvious to mount the compression ring on the body of Holliday as taught by Szegda. In regard to claim 6, it is noted that Szegda teaches that a threaded connection is merely an alternative to other connections types that comprise releasable connections that separate upon axial advancement of the compression ring. The threads are used when hand assembly is intended and the other embodiments are intended for situations when a compression tool is available. To offer the same alternative assembly methods, it would have been obvious to use a compression ring with a releasable connection as taught by Szegda on the device of Holliday.

6. Claim 11 is are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holliday '220 in view of Nepovim (US Pat. 3846738). Holliday does not teach the use of a taper on the sleeve. However, Nepovim teaches that the sleeve have tapered portions 43 to aid in compression. Such tapers are well known on members such as this as they aid assembly. For the same reason, it would have been obvious to include tapers on the device of Holliday in order to aid assembly.

7. Claims 13 and 14 are allowed. The prior art does not show or teach a connector of the claimed type having grooves or a corrugated surface portion formed in the outer wall of the sleeve in order to reduce drag or driving force as a compression ring is advanced over the sleeve.

8. **Any response to this action may be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-7722 or 308-7724 or 308-7328  
(informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED"  
or "DRAFT")

**Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (Receptionist)  
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke at (703) 308-1511. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319.



Renee S. Luebke  
Primary Patent Examiner  
November 13, 2001